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WE CLAIM:

1. (original) A computer operating device for use in an automobile, said device comprising:
  - a housing for the receipt of a users hand mounted atop the gearshift;
  - an analog directional input device partially contained within said housing;
  - 5 at least one pressure sensitive actuation button partially contained within said housing;
  - electronic circuitry within said housing, in electrical communication with said at least one pressure sensitive actuation button and said analog directional input device, translating actuation of said actuation button and the position of said analog
  - 10 directional input device into electric signals;
  - a signal transfer means in electrical communication with said computer, and said electronic circuitry; and
  - a power source in communication with said signal transfer means and said electronic circuitry.
- 15 2. (original) A computer operating device as in claim 1, further comprising an opening in said housing for receipt of a locking mechanism of said gearshift.
3. (original) A computer operating device as in claim 1, wherein said analog directional input device is partially contained within the top of said housing, for the receipt of said users thumb when said users right hand is in communication with said housing in a grasped vertical stack orientation.

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4. (original) A computer operating device as in claim 1, wherein said analog directional input device is partially contained within the left side of said housing for the receipt of the thumb of said user when said users right hand is in communication with said housing in a grasped horizontal palm down orientation.

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5. (withdrawn) A computer operating device as in claim 1, wherein said analog directional input device is a generally round member having a knob like protrusion inclined in an arbitrary 360 degree planar angle for the receipt of a finger of said user.

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6. (withdrawn) A computer operating device as in claim 1, wherein said analog directional input device is a generally round member having a knob like protrusion inclined in an arbitrary 360 degree planar angle, and is a pressure sensitive actuation button for the receipt of a finger of said user.

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7. (original) A computer operating device as in claim 1, wherein said analog directional input device consists of a multitude of actuators depressible in an arbitrary 360 degree planar angle with an X-Y directional pad for the receipt of a finger of said user.

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8. (original) A computer operating device as in claim 1, wherein said signal transfer means is selected from the group, radio, infrared, USB, PS/2, firewire, serial interface.

9. (original) A computer operating device as in claim 1, wherein said at least one pressure sensitive actuation button is oriented on at least a portion of the left

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side or front side of said housing for the receipt of a portion of the middle or distal phalange of at least one of said users fingers when said users right hand is in  
5 communication with said housing in a grasped vertical stack orientation.

10. (original) A computer operating device as in claim 1, wherein said at least one pressure sensitive actuation button is oriented on least a portion of the front side of said housing for the receipt of a portion of the middle or distal phalange of at least one of said users fingers, when said users right hand is in communication with said  
5 housing in a grasped horizontal palm down orientation.

11. (original) A computer operating device as in claim 1, wherein a lock switch is partially contained within said housing, said lock switch having an enabled and disabled state.

12. (original) A computer operating device as in claim 1, wherein said power source is selected from the group, battery power source, computer power source.

13. (original) An computer operating device for use in an automobile, said device comprising:  
a directional input device housing;  
an analog directional input device partially contained within said  
5 directional input device housing;  
an actuation button housing;  
at least one pressure sensitive actuation button partially contained within said actuation button housing;

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10 electronic circuitry in electrical communication with said at least one pressure sensitive actuation button and said analog directional input device, translating actuation of said actuation button and the position of said analog directional input device into electric signals;

a signal transfer means in electrical communication with said computer, and said electronic circuitry;

15 a power source in communication with said signal transfer means, and said electronic circuitry; and

a securing means attached to said actuation button housing, said analog directional input device housing, providing removable communication with the handle of said gearshift of said automobile.

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14. (original) A computer operating device as in claim 13, wherein said directional input device housing is removably attachable to the top of said gearshift handle for the receipt of said users thumb when said users right hand is in communication with said gearshift in a grasped vertical stack orientation.

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15. (original) A computer operating device as in claim 13, wherein said directional input device housing is removably attachable to the left side of said gearshift handle for the receipt of said users thumb when said users right hand is in communication with said gearshift in a grasped horizontal palm down orientation.

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16. (withdrawn) A computer operating device as in claim 13, wherein said analog directional input device is a generally round member having a knob like protrusion inclined in an arbitrary 360 degree planar angle for the receipt of a finger of said user.

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17. (withdrawn) A computer operating device as in claim 13, wherein said analog directional input device is a generally round member having a knob like protrusion inclined in an arbitrary 360 degree planar angle and is a pressure sensitive actuation button for the receipt of a finger of said user.

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18. (original) A computer operating device as in claim 13, wherein said analog directional input device is comprised of a multitude of actuators depressible in an arbitrary 360 degree planar angle with an X-Y directional pad for the receipt of a finger of said user.

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19. (original) A computer operating device as in claim 13, wherein said signal transfer means is selected from the group, radio, infrared, USB, PS/2, firewire, serial interface.

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20. (original) A computer operating device as in claim 13, wherein said actuation button housing is removably attachable on a portion of the left side or front side of said gearshift handle for the receipt of a portion of the middle or distal phalange of at least one of said users fingers when said users right hand is in communication with said gearshift handle in a grasped vertical stack orientation.

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21. (original) A computer operating device as in claim 13, wherein said actuation button housing is removably attachable on at least a portion of the front side of said gearshift handle for the receipt of a portion of the middle or distal phalange of at least one of said users fingers when said users right hand is in communication with said gearshift handle in a grasped horizontal, palm down orientation.

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22. (original) A computer operating device as in claim 13, wherein a lock switch is partially contained within said directional input device housing, said lock switch having an enabled and disabled state.

23. (original) A computer operating device as in claim 13, wherein a lock switch is partially contained within said actuation button housing, said lock switch having an enabled and disabled state.

24. (original) A computer operating device as in claim 13, wherein said power source is selected from the group, battery power source, computer power source.

25. (currently amended) A computer operating device for use in an automobile, said device comprising:

a housing mounted atop a gearshift of said automobile for the receipt of a users hand;

5 an analog directional input device partially contained within the top of said housing, wherein said analog directional input device is comprised of a multitude of actuators depressible in an arbitrary 360 degree planar angle with an X-Y directional pad for the receipt of a finger of said user ~~wherein said analog directional input device is a generally round member having a knob-like protrusion inclined in an arbitrary 360 degree planar angle providing pressure sensitive actuation, wherein said knob is shaped to~~  
10 ~~receive a thumb of said user when said users right hand is in communication with said housing in a grasped vertical stack orientation.~~

at least one pressure sensitive actuation button on at least a portion of the left side or front side of said housing for the receipt of a portion of the middle or distal

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15 phalange of at least one of said users fingers, when said users right hand is in communication with said housing in a grasped vertical stack orientation;

electronic circuitry within said housing, said electronic circuitry being in electrical communication with said at least one pressure sensitive actuation button and said analog directional input device for translating actuation of said actuation button and  
20 the position of said analog directional input device into electric signals;

a signal transfer means in electrical communication with said computer, and said electronic circuitry;

a lock switch partially contained within said housing, said lock switch having an enabled and disabled state; and

25 a power source in communication with said signal transfer means and said electronic circuitry.

26. (original) A computer operating device as in claim 25, wherein said signal transfer means is selected from the group, radio, infrared, USB, PS/2, firewire, serial interface.

27. (original) A computer operating device as in claim 25, wherein said power source is selected from the group, battery power source, computer power source.

28. (currently amended) A computer operating device for use in an automobile, said device comprising:

a directional input device housing removably attachable to the top of a gearshift handle of said automobile;

5 an analog directional input device partially contained within said directional input device wherein said analog directional input device is comprised of a

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~~multitude of actuators depressible in an arbitrary 360 degree planar angle with an X-Y directional pad for the receipt of a finger of said user housing consisting of a generally round member having a knob-like protrusion inclined in an arbitrary 360 degree planar angle providing pressure sensitive actuation, wherein said knob is shaped for the receipt of a thumb of said user when said users right hand is in communication with said gearshift handle in a grasped vertical stack orientation.~~

an actuation button housing removably attachable to at least a portion of the left side or front side of said gearshift handle

15 at least one pressure sensitive actuation button partially contained within said actuation button housing, for the receipt of a portion of the middle or distal phalange of at least one of said users fingers, when said users right hand is in communication with said gearshift handle in a grasped vertical stack orientation;

20 electronic circuitry in electrical communication with said at least one pressure sensitive actuation button and said analog directional input device, translating actuation of said actuation button and the position of said analog directional input device into electric signals;

a signal transfer means in electrical communication with said computer, and said electronic circuitry;

25 a lock switch partially contained within said actuation button housing, said lock switch having an enabled and disabled state;

a power source in communication with said signal transfer means and said electronic circuitry; and

30 a securing means attached to said actuation button housing, said analog directional input device housing, said signal transfer means and said electronic circuitry providing removable communication with said gearshift handle of said automobile.



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29. (original) A computer operating device as in claim 28, wherein said signal transfer means is selected from the group, radio, infrared, USB, PS/2, firewire, serial interface.

30. (original) A computer operating device as in claim 28, wherein said power source is selected from the group, battery power source, computer power source.